

***Etiella zinckenella* (Tr.) (Lep.: Pyralidae) in North London: Fifth and sixth British records**

On 27 July 2006 I found a phycitine pyralid, with extremely modified basal antennal segments, that I did not recognise in my garden mv trap. It did not appear to be illustrated in Goater (1986, *British Pyralid Moths*) and so I retained the specimen for



Plate N. *Etiella zinckenella* (Tr.) (Pyralidae), male, Hornsey, Middlesex, 27.viii.2006 (M. J. Ashby).



Plate O. same – detail of basal antennal segments.

identification. On 9 August 2006, I showed the specimen to Colin Plant who immediately recognised it as a male *Etiella zinckenella* and I was able to compare it to European examples in his collection. Returning home that afternoon, almost two weeks after catching the specimen, I began to inspect the previous night's catch, which I had not found time to examine in the morning. I was astonished to find another example of *E. zinckenella* in my mv trap, this time a female. I immediately telephoned Colin, who suggested that I should contact Bernard Skinner in order to shed light on its current status. Mr Skinner informed me that my two

specimens are the fifth and sixth records for Britain. The British records, in chronological order, are now as follows:

Bradwell-on-Sea (South Essex, VC 18), 23 October 1989 (A. J. Dewick), given in Bretherton, R. F. & Chalmers-Hunt, J. M., 1990, The immigration of Lepidoptera to the British Isles in 1989. *Ent. Rec.* **102**: 153;

Warsash, (South Hampshire, VC 11), 1 October 1990 (P. M. Potts per J. R. Langmaid. *Br. J. ent. Nat. Hist.* **4**: 31);

Christchurch, (South Hampshire, VC 11), 10 August 1995 (Jeffes, M., 1995. *Ent. Rec.* **107**: 291 – 292), identity confirmed by Barry Goater. Agassiz, D. J. L., Heckford, R. J. & Langmaid, J. R., 1997, *Ent. Rec.* **109**: 186 include this record in their review of microlepidoptera for 1995, but list it for 11 August, which is the morning the trap was examined rather than the conventionally recorded date of capture;

St Agnes, Scilly (West Cornwall, VC 1), 20 July 1996 (J. Hale & M. Hicks), given in Agassiz, D. J. L., 1998. *Ent. Rec.* **110**: 113 and in Skinner, B. & Parsons, M., 1999. *Ent. Rec.* **111**: 153 – 183.

Hornsey, London N8 (Middlesex, VC 21), a male on 27 July 2006 and a female on 8 September 2006 (M. J. Ashby).

As this species does not yet appear to be figured in the British literature, the opportunity is taken to present a colour illustration here (Plate N) to facilitate recognition by others. The highly modified basal segments of the male antennae are perhaps distinctive – certainly interesting – and are separately illustrated in Plate O. According to Slamka (1997. *Die Zünslerartigen (Pyraloidea) Mitteleuropas*), the larvae feed in the seedpods of various legumes, including *Colutea*, *Sarothamnus*, *Phaseolus Pisum*, *Lupinus* and *Robinia*; some other notes on biology are given in Potts, *Ent. Rec.* **105**: 67. Although there was some immigrant moth activity at the time, because I trapped two examples in two weeks it seems possible that they may have emerged from imported beans or peas discarded in the area. The female was kept alive and given pea pods in an attempt to get her to lay, but she survived only a week and no eggs were produced.

I am grateful to Mr Bernard Skinner for giving me the dates and localities of the previous four British specimens. I am also grateful to Colin Plant for a literature search that revealed the original sources of the four previous records and confirmed that there were no others that had been overlooked. I am also grateful to Colin for photographing the images in the two plates. — M. J. ASHBY, 30a Alexandra Road, London N8 0PP (E-mail: marcel.ashby@btinternet.com).
